

Notice of Allowability

Application No.	Applicant(s)	
10/650,594	SCHOUTEN ET AL.	
Examiner	Art Unit	
Long Nguyen	2816	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS. This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. This communication is responsive to application filed 8/27/03 and Oath filed on 5/14/04.
2. The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-19.
3. The drawings filed on _____ are accepted by the Examiner.
4. Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) All
 - b) Some*
 - c) None of the:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
6. CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
1) hereto or 2) to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material
5. Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. Other _____.

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Mr. Mark Hennings on 01/24/05.

The application has been amended as follows:

In The Drawings

2. The following changes to the drawings have been approved by the examiner and agreed upon by applicant:

In Figure 1, the circuit of Figure 1 will be provided with reference numeral --100--.

In Figure 1, at the junction node of diode D1 and current source X3 which connected to the positive (+) terminal of amplifier X1, --VREF2-- will be provided.

In Figure 3, the circuit of Figure 3 will be provided with reference numeral --300--.

Also, the drawings are informal drawings (DRAFT). Applicant will send in formal drawings including the changes as indicated above.

3. In order to avoid abandonment of the application, applicant must make these above agreed upon drawing changes. Note that any amended replacement drawing sheet should include all of the figures appearing on the immediate prior version of the sheet, even if only one figure is being amended. The figure or figure number of an amended drawing should not be labeled as "amended." If a drawing figure is to be canceled, the appropriate figure must be removed from

the replacement sheet, and where necessary, the remaining figures must be renumbered and appropriate changes made to the brief description of the several views of the drawings for consistency. Additional replacement sheets may be necessary to show the renumbering of the remaining figures. The replacement sheet(s) should be labeled "Replacement Sheet" in the page header (as per 37 CFR 1.84(c)) so as not to obstruct any portion of the drawing figures. If the changes are not accepted by the examiner, the applicant will be notified and informed of any required corrective action in the next Office action. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

In The Specification

On page 2, line 23, after "PTAT", --(Proportional-To-Absolute-Temperature)-- has been inserted.

In The Claims

Claim 1, line 6, "the state" has been changed to --a state--.

Claim 1, line 8, "the voltage" has been changed to --a voltage--.

Claim 3, line 2, "junction." has been changed to --junction of a device--.

Claim 5, line 2, "through which resistors" has been changed to --and wherein--.

Claim 5, line 3, "discharge." has been changed to --discharged through the Kohm-range resistors--.

Claim 7, line 1, "circuit," has been changed to --circuit for generating a timeout signal,--.

Claim 7, line 7, "the state" has been changed to --a state--.

Claim 7, line 9, "the voltage" has been changed to --a voltage--.

Claim 9, line 2, "junction." has been changed to --junction of a device--.

Claim 11, line 2, "through which resistors" has been changed to --and wherein--.

Claim 11, line 3, "discharge." has been changed to --discharged through the Kohm-range resistors.--.

Claim 13, line 9, "junction such" has been changed to --junction element such--.

Claim 13, line 11, "the state" has been changed to --a state--.

Claim 13, line 13, "the voltage" has been changed to --a voltage--.

Claim 17, line 2, "through which resistors" has been changed to --and wherein--.

Claim 17, line 2, "discharge." has been changed to --discharged through the Kohm-range resistors.--.

Claim 19, line 1, "claim 13, wherein the PTAT generator" has been changed to -claim 16, wherein the first current source--.

Reasons For The Above Changes

The above changes are necessary to correct the minor informalities in the drawings, specification, and claims.

REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

4. Claims 1-19 are allowed. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

Claims 1, 7 and 13 are allowed because the prior art of record fails to disclose or suggest an apparatus for generating a timeout signal, or a method thereof, which includes all the limitations of these claims. In particular, the prior art of record does not disclose or suggest the circuit for generating the timeout signal or method thereof that includes, in combination with

other elements, a timing capacitor, a first current source having a temperature coefficient of a first polarity, and a second reference voltage having a temperature coefficient of a second polarity that is opposite of the first polarity as recited in claims 1, 7 and 13.

Claims 2-6, 8-12 and 14-19 are allowed because they depend on claims 1, 7 and 13.

5. Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

6. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.
7. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directly to Examiner Long Nguyen whose telephone number is (571) 272-1753. The Examiner can normally be reached on Monday to Friday from 8:30am to 5:00pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Tim Callahan, can be reached at (571) 272-1740. The fax number for this group is (703) 872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR

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system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

January 25, 2004

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Long Nguyen".

Long Nguyen
Primary Examiner
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